

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 SCEM-02 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCI-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /164 W

----- 034756

R 200127Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 261

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ENRG TW

SUBJECT : PETROLEUM CUTBACKS

REF: STATE 216846, B) TAIPEI 6835, C) TAIPEI 6788

1. AN EIGHT-MEMBER ROC ECONOMIC MISSION HEADED BY Y.S. SUN, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LEFT TAIPEI NOVEMBER 17 FOR TWO-WEEK TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN. IN DEPARTURE STATEMENT SUN SAID PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO "EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH SAUDI ARABIAN AND JORDANIAN OFFICIALS ON WAYS OF FURTHER STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION". SUN ALSO WILL ATTEND OPENING OF ROC TRADE FAIR IN JIDDA.

2. AMONG THOSE ACCOMPANYING SUN ARE JERRY HU, PRESIDENT
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OF CHINESE PETROLEUM CORPORATION (CPC) AND L.K. CHEN,

PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN POWER COMPANY. HU COMMENTED TO ECONCOUNS ON NOVEMBER 15 THAT ONE OF MAJOR PURPOSES OF VISIT TO JIDDA IS TO SEEK ADDITIONAL PETROLEUM BY DIRECT PURCHASE. CPC HAS APPROXIMATELY THREE-MONTHS SUPPLY ON HAND AT CURRENT RATES OF CONSUMPTION. UNLESS ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF SUPPLY LOCATED CPC SOON WILL HAVE TO BEGIN RATIONING IN ANTICIPATION OF CUTBACKS ANNOUNCED BY CPC'S MAJOR SUPPLIERS. HU INDICATED HE IS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAT CPC WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL PETROLEUM THAN HE WAS WHEN HE SPOKE TO EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 9, BUT HE GAVE NO REASON FOR HIS OPTIMISM.

3. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, TAIWAN POWER COMPANY HAS ANNOUNCED THREE PERCENT CUT IN LINE VOLTAGE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 18. COMPANY SPOKESMAN STATED THAT IT IS HOPED REDUCTION CAN BE TEMPORARY.

4. CPC ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 19 THAT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 25 GAS STATIONS IN TAIWAN WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF HOURS THEY WILL BE OPEN. STATIONS NOW OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY WILL OPEN AT 7 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 10 P.M. STATIONS WHICH NOW OPEN AT 7 AM AND CLOSE AT 10 PM WILL IN THE FUTURE CLOSE AT 2 P.M. ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS. MCCONAUGHY

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